

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

# Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY No11 • 26th APRIL 1969 PRICE 1/3



I love my gentle budgie,  
I call him Sweetheart Jack,  
'Cause every time I kiss him,  
He kisses me right back.

He's such a pretty budgie,  
A darling little bird,  
His silvery song at dawn is  
The sweetest ever heard.





# ALADDIN and his Wonderful Lamp



1. The wicked magician had got hold of the Magic Lamp and had ordered the Slave of the Lamp to carry Aladdin's Princess and palace to the far-off Desert of Morocco. But Aladdin had called on the Slave of the Ring to take him to his Princess.



2. Princess Badroul was delighted when Aladdin suddenly appeared. Swiftly she told Aladdin how the wicked magician had had the palace carried to Morocco. "He wants to marry me," she told Aladdin. "But I have refused. You are my husband and I want no other."



3. While Aladdin and Princess Badroul were speaking together, the cruel magician was taking his spite out of two of the Princess's ladies-in-waiting. "Because you won't persuade the Princess to marry me, you shall go to prison," he roared. "Take them away, guards."





4. The poor unhappy ladies-in-waiting were locked up in a prison-cell. Then word was brought to the magician that a great caravan had been sighted. "Ah! My wedding guests are arriving," he grinned.

5. The Magician was very sure that the Princess would be forced to marry him. He had, therefore, invited three of the richest Arab princes to come to his wedding. "Welcome," he shouted as they rode towards him.



6. The princes had heard about the amazing palace that had suddenly appeared in the heart of the desert. They wanted to see its lord and master. They stared at him curiously as he said "Pray be seated, good sirs, and I will bring my bride so that you may admire her beauty."



7. "Only the Slave of the Lamp can carry you and my palace back home," Aladdin was saying to the Princess when they heard the footsteps of the magician. "Quick, hide behind this curtain," said the Princess. "The magician must not find you here. But remember he always carries the Magic Lamp in his robe."

You can read next week how Aladdin outwits the wicked magician.





1. First, here is the magnificent head of an Arab horse. Hundreds of years ago, the Arabs invaded Spain and brought with them this breed of beautiful horse. Arab horses are swift, proud and brave.



2. Some of the most beautiful horses in the world are the wild horses of the Camargue, (say "Cam-arg") in Southern France. These horses have grey coats and roam the countryside in herds. Although they cannot run as fast as trained race horses, they are very strong and can run for hours without tiring.



These are our "Allsorts" pages. Every week you can see all sorts of Allsorts. Here, this week, are eight different types of horses.

# All Sorts



5. This splendid looking horse is known as an Appaloosa. It is found in the far west of America, and also in Canada. It is a fast riding, high-jumping horse, which will always try and obey the orders of its master.



6. One of the most famous horses in the world is the Palomino. Although it has a lovely golden coat, its mane and tail are snow white. It is to be found mostly in America, and is a favourite riding pony for girls.



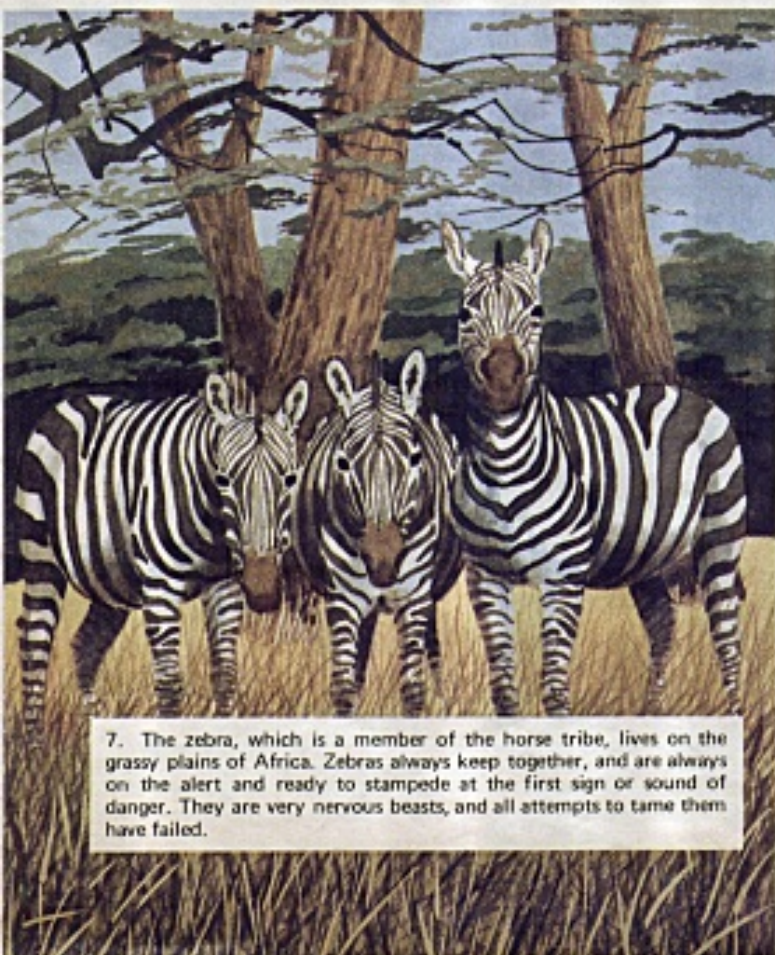


3. Among horses there is no more noble animal than the Shire. Its ancestors were the great battle chargers which carried the knights of olden times to the battlefield. The Shires are very friendly animals. Shires pull the Lord Mayor's Coach at the annual Lord Mayor's show in London.



4. The Viking horses of Iceland are the oldest breed of horses in the world. The Vikings, who were Norse pirates, first went to Iceland, nearly a thousand years ago. They took their horses with them. Since then, no horse has been imported into Iceland, so the Viking horses of today are the same as those ridden by the Vikings.

# of Horses



7. The zebra, which is a member of the horse tribe, lives on the grassy plains of Africa. Zebras always keep together, and are always on the alert and ready to stampede at the first sign or sound of danger. They are very nervous beasts, and all attempts to tame them have failed.



8. The most charming horses in the world are the Shetland ponies. They are full of spirit, but they are also very friendly and are known as the children's friend. They come from the Shetland Islands near the coast of Scotland and, as you can see, are very small animals.





# BRER RABBIT

Brer Rabbit takes some exercise.

Retold by Barbara Hayes.

**W**ELL, children, I don't suppose there are many of you who haven't heard of that scamp Brer Rabbit and all the naughty tricks he kept playing on the other animals.

But when you remember that most of the other animals were trying to catch Brer Rabbit and turn him into rabbit stew for dinner, you can't blame him for getting his own back sometimes can you?

Now, it happened one day that Brer Rabbit was poking about in the woodlands, and a mighty windy day it was too.

The wind was chasing through the bushes, making the leaves rustle and blowing the nuts and fir-cones down to the ground — kerplunk!

Well, every time Brer Rabbit heard a rustling or a *kerplunk*, he gave a nervous little jump.

"If I weren't clever old Brer Rabbit and not frightened of anything, then I might feel mighty scared of all these rustlings and kerplunks!" he thought to himself.

Then through all the rustling and kerplunking noises, Brer Rabbit heard yet another sound.

It was the sound of Mr. Man cutting down a tree.

CLUNK! CLUNK! CLUNK! the noise went — and then suddenly it went — CRRRR-RRAAAAASH!

The tree had fallen to the ground.

And even though Brer Rabbit was *clever* old Brer Rabbit and afraid of nothing, he couldn't help giving a little jump of surprise.

Then he had an idea.

"I know how to get a nice peaceful afternoon out of that loud noise," he thought.

So then Brer Rabbit started running and he ran as if a pack of hounds were after him. He ran until he could scarcely catch his breath and as well as that, he made sure he ran near where he would see Brer Coon.

"Hallo, Brer Rabbit," called Brer Coon, "What's the hurry?"

"I haven't got time to stop," gasped Brer Rabbit.

"Is someone sick?" asked Brer Coon.





"Golly no!" puffed Brer Rabbit. "But I haven't got time to stop."

"Are you having a race?" asked Brer Coon.

"Golly no!" puffed Brer Rabbit, "but I haven't got time to stop."

"For goodness sake tell me what is making you run like that," gasped Brer Coon feeling quite anxious.

So then Brer Rabbit said, "There was a terrible big noise back there in the woods and I'm not waiting around to talk about it."

Well, when he heard that Brer Coon felt scared and he ran off just as fast as Brer Rabbit had. He hadn't gone far before he met Brer Fox.

"Hallo, Brer Coon. Where are you going?" asked Brer Fox.

"I haven't got time to stop," replied Brer Coon.

So then of course Brer Wolf started running and he hadn't gone far before he met Brer Bear. Brer Bear asked Brer Wolf all the same questions that the others had asked and he got all the same answers and in a moment, he, too, was running as fast as his paws could carry him.

And can you guess what Brer Rabbit had been doing all this time? He had slipped back to his own home and was sitting having a lovely lazy afternoon in the garden.

"I can snooze in peace because those other animals will be far too busy running to come and bother me," he chuckled drowsily. "No rabbit stew for them today!"

Now, while Brer Rabbit was taking it easy, Brer Coon and Brer Fox and Brer Wolf and Brer Bear were running and running and running. But when they reached Brer

away from the big noise. If you did run away, that was your fault."

Well none of the animals could think of an answer to that, so they slunk away and Brer Rabbit, he laughed and laughed and laughed.

"One of these days," growled Brer Wolf to Brer Fox, "we're going to catch that clever Brer Rabbit good and proper. And when we do, we'll have him inside a cooking pot before he can blink."

Brer Fox showed his sharp teeth.

"That we will, Brer Wolf," said he. "He'll make a nice dish of rabbit stew, he will."

But Brer Coon said:

"It is all very well for you two to say that. But you have got to catch Brer Rabbit first. And that isn't easy, is it?"

Brer Fox and Brer Wolf said nothing. (Next week there will be another funny story of Brer Rabbit.)



"Are you going for the doctor?" asked Brer Fox.

"Golly no, but I haven't got time to stop," said Brer Coon.

"Please tell me what is making you run like that?" demanded Brer Fox.

So at last Brer Coon puffed, "There was a terrible noise back there in the woods and I'm not waiting around to talk about it."

Well, Brer Coon seemed so frightened that Brer Fox thought something dreadful must have happened and he started to run too. He ran so fast he seemed as if he was going to split the wind in half.

Now Brer Fox hadn't gone far, when he met Brer Wolf.

"Hallo, Brer Fox, where are you going?" asked Brer Wolf.

"I haven't got time to stop," replied Brer Fox.

"Does somebody want the doctor?" asked Brer Wolf.

"Golly no, but I haven't got time to stop," answered Brer Fox.

"Please Brer Fox, good or bad, tell me what is making you run," demanded Brer Wolf.

"There's something terrible going on back in the woodlands and I'm not waiting around to talk about it," said Brer Fox.

Terrapin's house they just had to stop for breath and of course Brer Terrapin asked why they were all running. And when they said they were running away from a noise, he asked them what the noise sounded like and they all had to say they didn't know.

Then he asked who actually heard the noise and again they all had to reply that they didn't know.

So then the animals began to feel foolish and enquired amongst themselves to find out who really *had* heard the noise. And of course all the answers led back to Brer Rabbit.

So all the animals went to where Brer Rabbit was lazing in the sun outside his house and they realized at once that they had been tricked.

"Why did you make a fool of me, Brer Rabbit?" said Brer Bear.

"This is the first time I have seen you today, Brer Bear," said Brer Rabbit. "How could I have made a fool of you?"

Then Brer Wolf asked the same question and got the same answer and Brer Fox asked the same question and got the same answer. And then Brer Coon asked the same question and Brer Rabbit said, "I didn't make a fool of you Brer Coon, I just told you I had heard a big noise. I didn't tell you you had to run

Hallo, boys and girls,

I know that lots of you like riddles. That is why you will find stories now and then in "ONCE UPON A TIME" which contain riddles. The week after next, for example there will be a lovely story called "The Riddle" on our centre pages. I am sure you will love it.

Now here are some riddles you can ask your mummies and daddies. See if they know the answers.

Why is the letter T like an island?

Because it is in the middle of wa-ter.

What pets do you find in cars?

Car-pets.

What falls but never breaks?

Rain.

Why did the bread roll?

Because it saw the butter-fly.

What is light as air but can sink a boat?

A hole.

That's all for now.

Your friend,  
The Editor.



# HOW DIFFERENT ANIMALS EAT



The dog gnaws



The cat laps



The humming bird sips



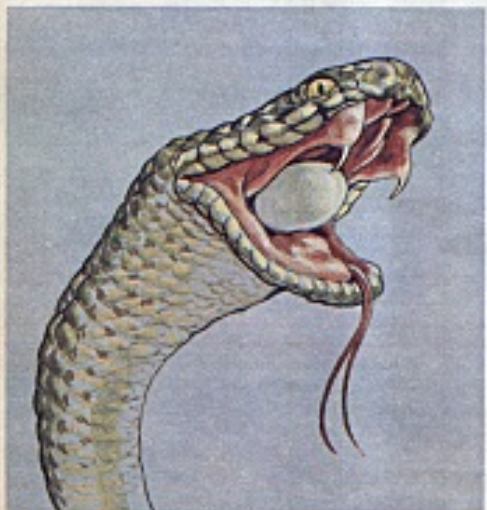
The hen pecks



The ant-eater licks



The cow chews



The snake swallows



The horse munches



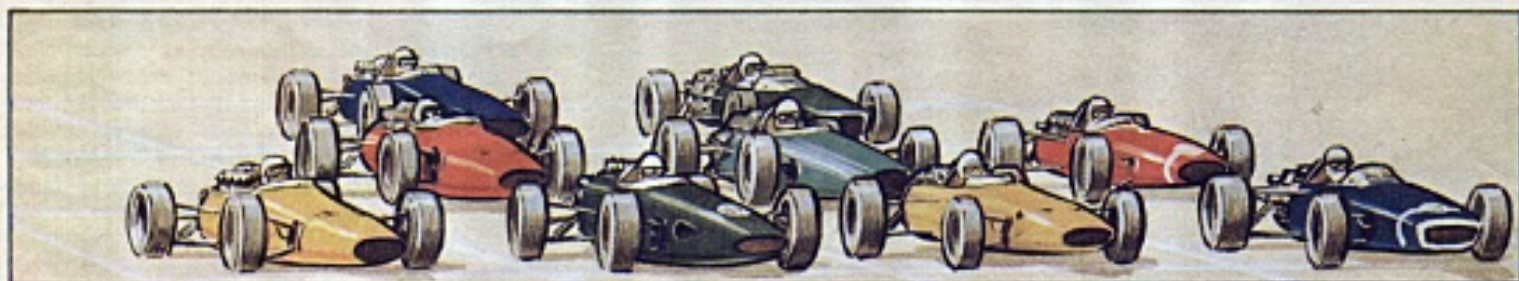
The mouse nibbles.



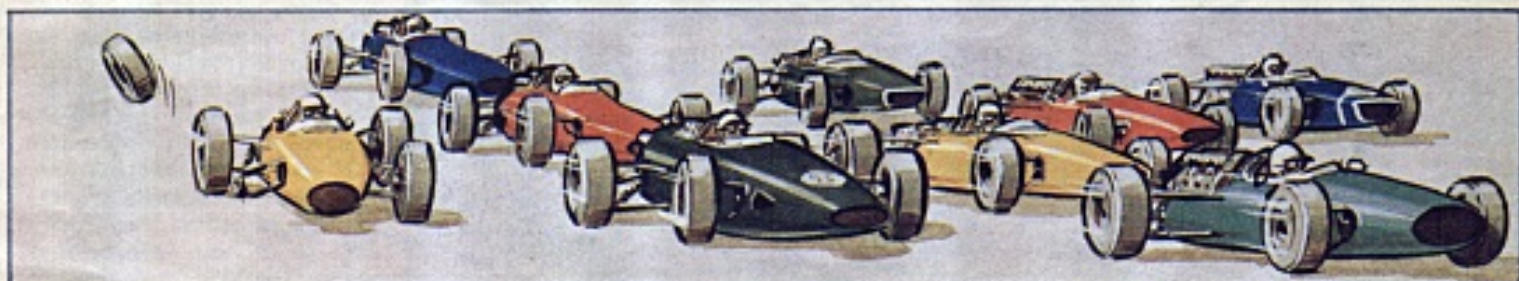


# Counting Fun on the Race Track

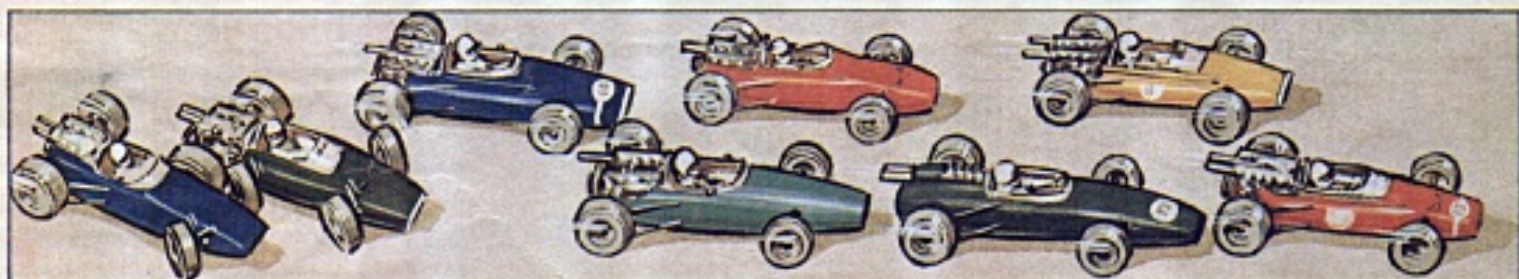
See if you can answer the questions under the pictures. The right answers are printed upside down at the bottom of this page.



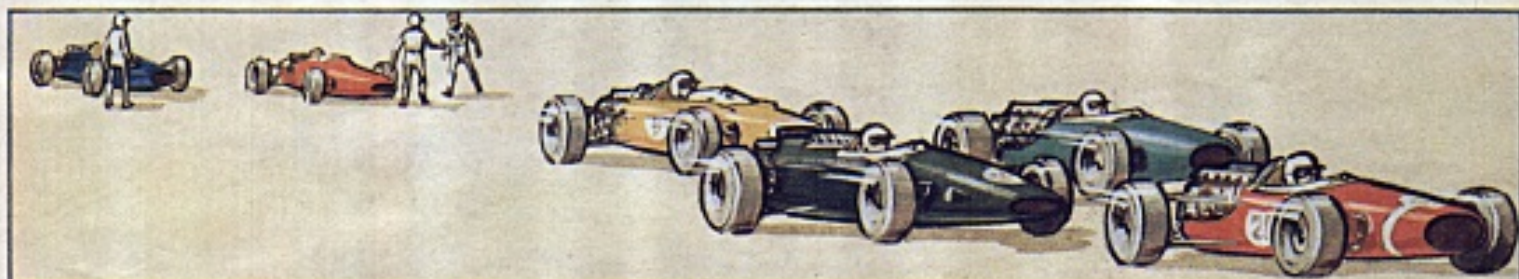
A. The cars are at the starting line. Can you count how many there are?



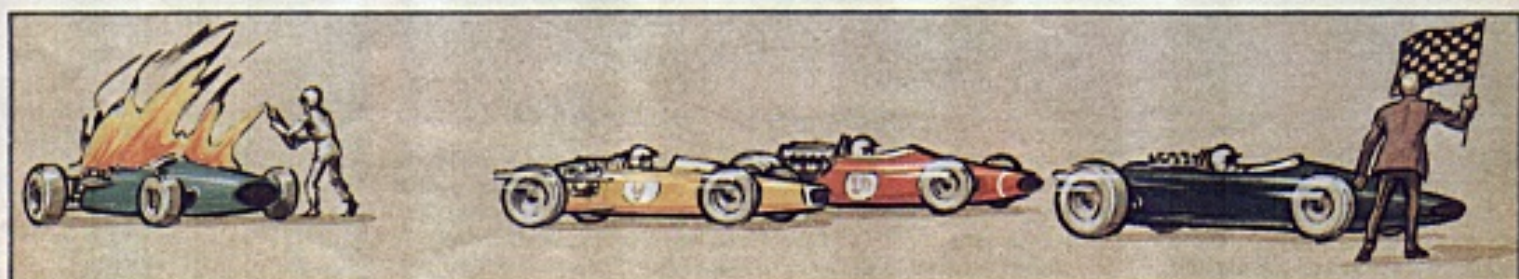
B. The yellow car on the left has lost a wheel. How many cars are left in the race?



C. The blue and green cars on the left have run off the track. How many cars are left?



D. Two cars have broken down. How many cars are still in the race?



E. A car catches fire. How many cars cross the finishing line?

Answers: A - 9, B - 8, C - 7, D - 5, E - 3.



# VALENTINE AND



**T**HE giant roared with rage and was just about to bring his mace down on Valentine's head when suddenly his legs were knocked from under him by a huge knotty club.

Shaking his head to clear it, the giant Ferragus gazed up into the fearless eyes of Orson, for it was he who had struck him.

Rolling over clumsily, Ferragus got to his feet but before he could raise his mace again, Orson sprang once more to the attack.

He darted forward as the giant swung his mace and knocked his enemy to his knees. This time he gave the giant no time to recover. Another great blow swept the giant over the drawbridge and the

great rascal fell into the dark green waters of the moat, never to be seen again.

Then Orson turned to care for Valentine. The young knight lay stunned where he had fallen. It seemed at first as though he would never open his eyes again. But Orson took the water-flask from Valentine's saddle and bathed the

knight's head. Slowly Valentine opened his eyes. Then he smiled painfully.

"Help me to my feet, good Orson," said he. For a few moments his head swam and he had to cling to Orson for support. But at last he managed to stand by himself.

He looked round. The giant had vanished.

"You saved my life, Orson," said he. "I shall never forget this."

Orson smiled. He was very happy because he had been able to help Valentine.

There was some strange bond between the two young men that seemed very odd to them at times. Of course, they did not know that they were really brothers.

Now, together, they entered the giant's castle and began to explore it. They had been told by Atramont, the Black Knight, that in the castle they would find a magic head of brass guarded by a dwarf and that the head could reveal who Orson really was.

In the grim damp dungeons of the castle they found several poor prisoners, all of them country-folk and set them free. Then in a little dim cell they found a lady



Blandiman carried the two babies and the long way to



# ORSON

Valentine and Orson did not know that they were brothers. They came to the castle of the giant Ferragus to learn who Orson really was but in a fight, Ferragus knocked Valentine out of his saddle.

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lying on the floor, tears streaming down her cheeks.

Valentine put his hand on her shoulder and as she looked up at him his heart seemed to miss a beat. There was something about her eyes that reminded him of somebody he knew and yet he could not say who.

"Mercy! Have mercy!" begged the lady when she saw that Valentine was armed and that Orson was carrying his great club. She thought they had come to harm her.

"Have no fear, my lady," replied Valentine quietly. "We are here to free you — not to harm you. The giant Ferragus will trouble you no more."

He helped the trembling lady to her feet. She could scarcely believe the good news.

Then Valentine and Orson took her into one of the apartments of the castle and brought her food and wine from the giant's pantry.

The two young men were eager to learn her story for she was obviously of noble birth.

They gasped when they learned that she was the Empress Bellisance, sister of King Pepin of France.



and he and the Empress set out to walk back to France.



"Why, I am a knight of his Court — his adopted son," said Valentine. "I have heard, of course, how you disappeared with your baby sons many years ago but how came you here, your majesty?"

Bellisance told the young men her story — how her husband's wicked prime minister had told

lies about her and how her husband had cast her and her baby twin sons out of his palace.

"Only Blandiman, a faithful old soldier, went with me," said the Empress. "He carried my babies and we set out to walk the long way back to my brother's palace in France. Then one day a terrible thing happened."

She went on to tell how Blandiman had gone off in search of food and while she was resting, a bear made off with one of the babies. She chased the bear but it disappeared in the forest. Grief-stricken, she had sped back to where she had left the other baby only to find that he, too, had vanished.





Blandiman had returned and they were just about to search for the missing babies when the giant Ferragus appeared, slew Blandiman and made off with Bellisance.

"I have been his prisoner ever since," explained Bellisance, as she ended her story.

#### The Head of Brass.

Valentine and Orson decided to set out for King Pepin's palace as soon as possible, to return the King's sister to the loving arms of her brother. But first they

went in search of the dwarf and the magic head of brass.

At last they came to a room in a topmost turret of the castle and there stood a grim-faced dwarf.

"Take us to the magic head of brass," ordered Valentine and quietly the dwarf obeyed the order. He led them to another chamber and pulling aside a heavy curtain revealed a great head of brass standing on a marble pedestal.

"Speak," said the dwarf, "and the head will answer you."

Valentine pushed Orson

forward and Orson asked: "Who am I?"

For a breathless moment there was silence and then the head began to speak.

"You are called Orson," it said. Its deep voice rang through the chamber in tones that reminded Valentine of a hammer striking a brass gong. "You are the son of the Empress Bellisance, he who was taken by a bear when a tiny baby. Valentine is your brother. He was found in the forest by King Pepin and brought up to be a true and gallant

knight. Now go — take your mother back to her brother. Good fortune and happiness will attend you both all your lives."

As it finished speaking the great head toppled forward and broke into a thousand pieces.

For several moments the two brothers stood there, unable to speak. Then they threw themselves into each other's arms.

"We must tell our mother at once," said Valentine, tears of happiness streaming down his face. He turned to the dwarf.

"Come with us and we will take care of you," said Valentine.

Just imagine the joy of the Empress when the two young men who had freed her from the giant's prison after so many years now proved to be her own long-lost sons.

Her happiness was equalled by that of the brother King Pepin when Valentine and Orson returned with their mother. The dwarf went with them and remained as Valentine's faithful servant forever after.

King Pepin sent a messenger at once to the Emperor Alexander, the husband of Bellisance. The Emperor had found out that his prime minister was a false man and had long ago banished him from his empire.

All these long years the Emperor had mourned the loss of his wife and his sons and believed that he would never see them again.

As soon as he heard the good news, the Emperor set out with his entire court and travelled to King Pepin's palace, to bring his wife back in triumph to her throne.

His joy when he met his two brave sons was boundless. Great feasts, dances and tournaments were held in honour of these events throughout the kingdom of France.

In due time, the Emperor and his wife returned to Constantinople with their son Orson, now splendidly dressed and looking every inch the brave knight he truly was.

Valentine remained at King Pepin's court and shortly after married his love, the fair Princess Eglantine.

As the magic head of brass had foretold the lives of Valentine and Orson were long. Good fortune attended them always and they lived happily ever after.







This story is a memory test. Read it carefully and then try to answer the questions on page 19.

ONCE upon a time, there was a young knight, very brave and handsome, who fell in love with a young lady, very gentle and beautiful.

One day, the young knight whose name was Sir Galivan went to visit the castle where lived the young lady whose name was Leonore. He asked Leonore's father if he could marry her.

Now Leonore's father was the Duke of Savoy and he was a very sad man. He didn't know why he was sad. He was simply one of those people who seem never to laugh and are always looking on the black side.

That was why he heaved a sigh and said to Sir Galivan: "Only if you can make me laugh."

Now it so happened that the young knight

had brought with him two roses — one white and one red — for Leonore. These roses had been given to him when he was born by his fairy godmother and they were magic roses.

Sir Galivan smiled and taking the roses from his belt he threw them to the ground. Then he said:

*"Rose white, rose true,  
Make us laugh, I say to you!"*

At once the white rose changed into a bird that started to speak.

"What must you do before you go out of a castle?" It asked. Everybody looked at each other. Then the bird said: "Go into it."

Lady Leonore started to laugh, so did everyone else. The Duke of Savoy just smiled.

Then Sir Galivan said:

*"Rose red, rose true,  
Make us laugh, I say to you."*

The red rose suddenly changed into another bird that flew into the air and sang softly:

"Why did the page-boy put a frog into the kitchen maid's bed?"

And the other bird replied: "Because he couldn't find a mouse to put in the bed."

Lady Leonore started to laugh, so did everybody else including the Duke. But the Duke laughed louder and longer than anyone else.

At last he said to Sir Galivan:

"You have made me laugh as I have never laughed before. You can marry my daughter."

Sir Galivan was so pleased, he said to the Duke: "And in exchange you can keep the two birds. They will make you laugh every day in future."

So everyone was happy and Sir Galivan and Lady Leonore lived happily ever after.

## THE TWO ROSES

Maribel





## BEAUTIFUL PICTURES

There was once a famous French artist named Jean Greuze (say "Jahn-Gree-ze"). He was always painting portraits of pretty girls. Here is "The Wool Winder," one of his best known pictures. There won't be much wool wound, though if that little kitten has anything to do with it. Doesn't he look mischievous and full of fun?

*(Reproduced from the print published by Pallas Gallery Ltd., London, W.1.)*

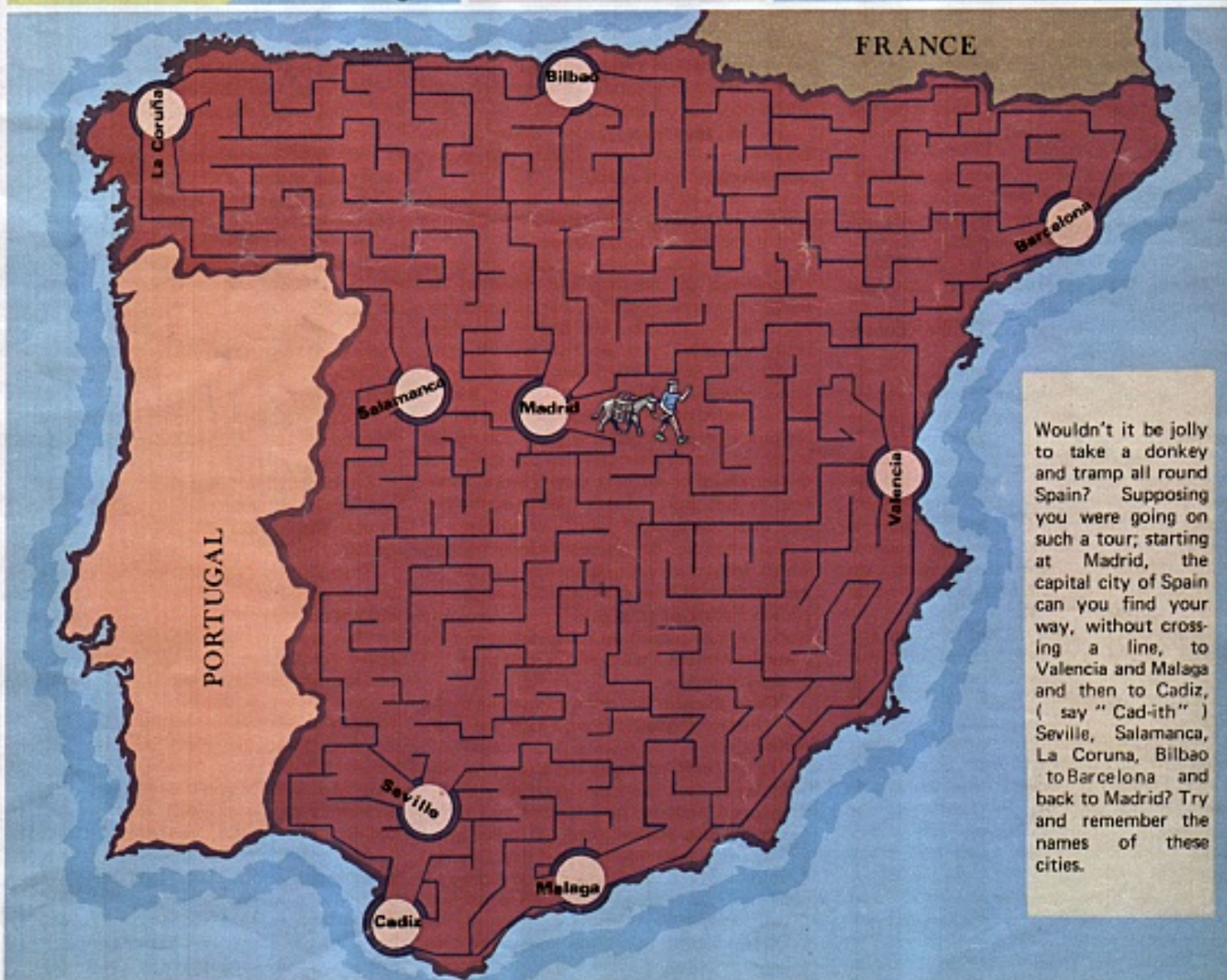


# Sunny Spain

This year millions of happy holiday-makers from all over Europe will be flocking to this beautiful country to bask in the hot sun and play on the sandy beaches.



In the map of Europe (left) Spain is the country coloured red. Once upon a time Spain was very powerful with a mighty empire. In 1492 Christopher Columbus was given three ships by Isabella, the Queen of Spain, and sailed westwards to discover and claim the New World for Spain. Thus not only vast lands but great riches were brought to Spain. Across the years, however, Spain has lost her empire. She is a proud country and glories in her great past. On the right is the flag of Spain.



Wouldn't it be jolly to take a donkey and tramp all round Spain? Supposing you were going on such a tour; starting at Madrid, the capital city of Spain can you find your way, without crossing a line, to Valencia and Malaga and then to Cadiz, (say "Cad-ith") Seville, Salamanca, La Coruna, Bilbao to Barcelona and back to Madrid? Try and remember the names of these cities.

The northern coast of Spain which borders the stormy Bay of Biscay, is the wettest stretch of country in Europe. There is a central plain, high and mountainous, in Spain and in

contrast to the northern coast, this table-land is the driest area in Europe. So in Spain you have the wettest and driest parts of Europe.





The Town Mouse arrives in the country.

Written by Barbara Hayes.

## THE TOWN MOUSE AND THE Country Mouse

ONCE upon a time there were two mice. One lived in the town and one lived in the country.

They were cousins, but that didn't mean that they were alike — quite the opposite. The town mouse was very modern and smart and liked to spend her time dressing in fine clothes and going out to fashionable restaurants.

But the mouse who lived in the country, was much quieter. She liked staying at home with her cooking and her knitting and the idea of going to a fashionable restaurant would have frightened her out of her furry little skin.

One day the town mouse fell ill with quite a bad cold and her doctor advised her to go for a holiday with her cousin the country mouse.

"The fresh air will do you good," the doctor had said, and although the town mouse wasn't at all keen on a country visit, in the end she decided to go.

"Staying in the country will mean that none of my fine friends will see me, until I am feeling better and prettier again," she thought. "After all I don't care a bit for the opinions of my cousin Winifred and her country bumpkin friends. So if they see me, when I am not looking my absolute best, it won't really matter."

So the town mouse packed her bags and put on some smart clothes. She didn't put on her very smartest clothes, of course. She put on the hat she had worn for the Easter parade.

"As I have worn this hat *once*, I shan't be able to wear it again in front of my smart friends," smiled the town mouse to herself. "so it is just the thing for wearing to see Winifred. After all, she doesn't know *this* year's fashions from *last* year's cold bread pudding!"

Then the town mouse's boy-friend Nigel drove her to the railway station and she caught a train for the country.

Nigel gave the engine driver ten shillings. "Buy yourself something nice with this," he smiled, "and while you are driving down to the country, please try to drive very gently so that my girl friend, Steve, isn't shaken up."

She isn't feeling well, you know."

The engine driver was pleased.

"Thank you, Mr. Nigel, sir," he said, touching his cap, "I will use the money to buy some warm winter vests. And I will be certain sure to drive very carefully so that your girl friend does not get shaken up."

So, as the train rattled down to the country — clickety clak, clickety-clak, everyone was really quite happy.

It was when Steve, the town mouse, arrived at the station to be met by Winifred that things started to go wrong.

The train stopped at the station and Steve stepped out of the train and called to Mr. Badger the porter to carry her suitcases and her umbrella for her. Mr. Badger was there ready to carry them. So that was all right.

Actually Steve, the town mouse, didn't know how lucky she was to find Mr. Badger at the ready. Usually he was just going off for his lunch break or just going off for his tea break, or resting after cleaning the station or thinking hard about next week's work. *Whatever* he was doing, it was usually something that meant he couldn't carry any suitcases.

But when Mr. Badger saw Steve in her hat, which looked very smart to *him*, he was so impressed with how grand she looked that he couldn't think of an excuse for not doing any work. He just picked up the suitcases and the umbrella without a word and carried them out of the station.

"Carry the suitcases and the umbrella to the taxi, there's a good fellow," said the town mouse.

"Taxi? Taxi?" thought Mr. Badger to himself, "what does she mean *taxi*? Why there's been none of those new fangled taxi things nearer to this station than ten miles away and that was a year last Maypole day. Country folks round here won't spend good money on taxis, not when they've got two good feet that they won't."

So Mr. Badger just stood holding the cases and the red umbrella and waited to see what would happen next.

The thing that happened next was that the town and the country mouse greeted each other.

"Hallo, Stephanie my love," smiled Winifred, "why, it's years since we met. I am glad to see you again."

Steve glanced round.

"Well, where's the taxi?" she asked.

Winifred looked blank.

"What taxi?" she asked.

Steve shook her head impatiently.

"Oh dear, how dense you country people are!" she gasped. "Why the taxi to take me and my luggage and you back to your house, of course."

Winifred still looked puzzled.

"I didn't come here in a taxi," she said, "I walked here. So the taxi hasn't disappeared. It has never been here at all. In fact, there aren't any taxis in our village. If we country folks want to go anywhere, we walk."

"Walk!" gasped Steve unable to believe her ears. "WALK!"

"Yes! We walk on our two flat feet!" laughed Bertie, Winifred's boy-friend. It was his idea of a joke.

Steve looked at him coldly.

"Speak for yourself," she said, "I don't doubt that *your* feet are flat, but *mine* certainly are *not*!"

Then Winifred went on kindly, because she was so good-natured that all Steve's rudeness did not upset her.

"But we knew your luggage would be too heavy for you to carry, so Bertie here, has brought his wooden cart and he will push your luggage to my house while you and I walk without having to carry anything."

"Well, thrillsville then!" muttered Steve, which was her smart, towny way of saying that she didn't think very much of the arrangements at all. But luckily Winifred didn't understand, so she still wasn't upset.

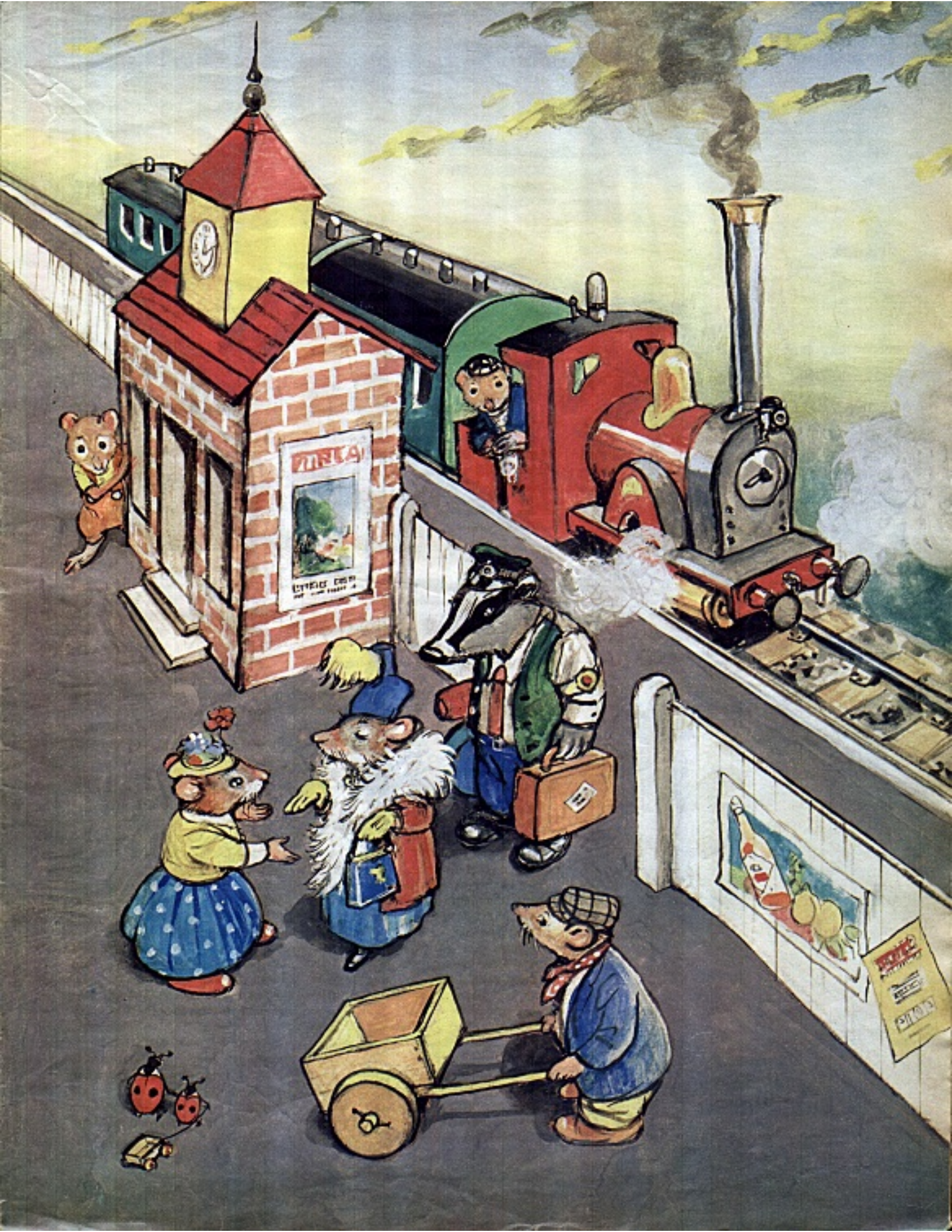
And as there was no help for it, Steve had to walk with Winifred back to Winifred's house while Bertie pushed the luggage.

How sore poor Steve's feet did become.

"All I can say is, my country holiday had better start swinging very quickly," muttered Steve, "or I shall be going back to town before you can say hayseed!"

More fun next week.









# PINOCCHIO

The mischievous puppet Pinocchio has been swallowed by a whale.

**P**INOCCHIO closed his eyes as he went down, down, down. When he opened his eyes again everything was very dark, and the darkness was so black that it seemed to him that he had fallen head downwards into an inkstand full of ink.

Pinocchio at first tried to keep up his courage; but when he had one proof after another that he was really shut up in the body of this whale he began to cry and to sob out:

"Help! Help! Oh, how unfortunate I am! Will nobody come to save me?"

At last he began to grope his way in the dark through the body of the whale, taking a step at a time in the direction of a light that he saw shining dimly at a great distance.

The farther he advanced the brighter became the light; and he walked and walked until at last he reached it; and when he reached it....what did he find? I will give you a thousand guesses. He found a little table spread out, and on it a lighted candle stuck into a green glass bottle, and seated at the table was a little old man.

It was Geppetto, his papa, the man who had made him out of a piece of wood.

At this Pinocchio was filled with great joy. He wanted to laugh, he wanted to cry, he wanted to say a thousand things, and instead he could only stammer out a few broken words. At last he

uttered a cry of joy, and opening his arms he threw them round the little old man's neck and began to shout:

"Oh, my dear papa! I have found you at last! I will never leave you more, never more, never more!"

"Then my eyes tell me true?" said the little old man, rubbing his eyes; "then you are really my dear Pinocchio?"

"Yes, yes, I am Pinocchio, really Pinocchio! And you have quite forgiven me, have you not? Oh, my dear papa, how good you are!"

And Pinocchio went on to tell Geppetto all that had happened since he had last seen the good old man sinking in his boat far out at sea.

"Yes," said Geppetto, "the sea was very rough and a great wave upset my boat. Then a horrible whale who was near, as soon as he saw me in the water, came towards me and swallowed me as if I had been a little sausage."

"And how long have you been shut up here?" asked Pinocchio. "And how have you managed to live? And where did you get the candle? And the matches to light it? Who gave them to you?"

"Stop, and I will tell you everything. You must know, then, that in the same storm in which my boat was upset a merchant ship also sank. The sailors were all saved, but the vessel went to the bottom, and the whale, after he had swallowed me, swallowed the ship."

"How?"



"He swallowed it in one mouthful, and the only thing that he spat out was the mainmast, that had stuck between his teeth like a fish-bone. Fortunately for me the ship was laden with meat in tins, biscuits, bottles of wine, dried raisins, cheese, coffee, sugar, candles and so I have been able to live all this time. But now there is nothing left in the larder and this candle is the last that remains....."

"Then, dear little papa," said Pinocchio, "there is no time to lose. We must think of escaping."

"Of escaping?.... and how?"

"We must escape through the mouth of the whale, jump into the sea and swim away."

"You talk well: but, dear Pinocchio, I don't know how to swim."

"What does that matter? I am a good swimmer, and you can get on my shoulders and I will carry you safely to the shore."

"It would be no use, my boy!" replied Geppetto, shaking his head with a sad smile. "Do you suppose it possible that a puppet like you, scarcely three feet, could have the strength to swim with me on his shoulders?"

"Try it and you will see!"

Without another word Pinocchio took the candle in his hand and going in front to light the way, he said to his father:

"Follow me and don't be afraid."

Now I must tell you that the whale being very old, always slept with his mouth open. Pinocchio, therefore, having approached the entrance to his throat and, looking up, could see beyond the gaping mouth a large piece of starry sky and beautiful moonlight.

"This is the moment to escape," he whispered, turning to his father; "the whale is sleeping like a dormouse, the sea is calm, and it is as light as day. Follow me, dear papa and in a short time we shall be in safety."

They immediately climbed up the throat of the whale and having reached his great mouth they began to walk on tiptoe down his tongue.

Before taking the final leap the puppet said to his father:

"Get on my shoulders and put your arms round my neck. I will take care of the rest."

As soon as Geppetto was firmly settled on his son's shoulders, Pinocchio, feeling sure of himself, threw himself into the water and began to swim. The sea was smooth, the moon shone brightly and the whale was sleeping so deeply that even a thunder storm would have failed to wake him.

Whilst Pinocchio was swimming quickly towards the shore he discovered that his father, who was on his shoulders with his legs in the water, was trembling as violently as if the poor man had an attack of fever.

Was he trembling from cold or from fear?... Perhaps a little from both the one and the other. But Pinocchio, thinking that it was from fear, said to comfort him:

"Courage, papa! In a few minutes we shall be safely on shore."

"But where is the shore?" asked the little old man, becoming still more frightened, and screwing up his eyes as tailors do when they wish to thread a needle. "I have been looking in every direction and I see nothing but the sky and the sea."

"But I think I can see the shore," said the puppet.

Poor Pinocchio! His strength was failing, he was gasping and panting for breath. But he gritted his teeth and swam on and on until at long last he felt sand beneath his feet. They were saved!

An extra large wave caught hold of them

and threw them up on to the shore where, for several minutes, they lay gasping.

By this time the day had dawned. Pinocchio got to his feet and offering his arms to Geppetto, who had scarcely breath to stand, said to him:

"Lean on my arm, dear papa, and let us go."

When they had gone a hundred yards they saw, at the end of a path in the middle of the fields, a nice little straw hut.

"Somebody must be living there," said Pinocchio. "Let us go and knock at the door."

They went and knocked.

"Who is there?" said a little voice from within.

"We are a poor father and son without bread and without a roof," answered the puppet.

"Turn the key and the door will open," said the same little voice.

Pinocchio turned the key and the door opened. They went in and looked here, there and everywhere, but could see no one.

"Where is the master of the house?"

said Pinocchio, much surprised.

"Here I am up here!"

The father and son looked immediately up to the ceiling, and there on a beam they saw the Talking-cricket.

More adventures with Pinocchio next week.

These are the questions about the merry story "The Two Roses" on page 13. Now you can see how well you have read or listened to the story.

1. What was the Knight's name?
2. Who was Lady Leonore's father?
3. What was the Knight given when he was born?
4. What did the Knight give the Duke for Lady Leonore's hand in marriage?





The largest and highest mountain range in the world is not on land, but deep beneath the sea. It stretches from the South to the North Atlantic Oceans, between Africa and America. Some of the islands, like St. Helena, and Canary Isles are the tops of mountains sticking up out of the sea.



NORTH AMERICA

CANARY ISLAND

AFRICA

SOUTH AMERICA

ST. HELENA

Hot water and central heating are today quite commonplace. But two thousand years ago, the Ancient Romans had both hot water and central heating in their houses. They had pipes under the floors which carried the hot water from tanks where it was heated by a wood fire.

In both Europe and America we eat many different kinds of food. But in Asia, millions of people have one main dish to eat every day. This is rice. Rice is grown in water in little fields and more rice is eaten every day throughout the world than any other kind of food.



Here every week you will be able to read these

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

facts which have been gathered for you from all over the world.



In the town of Bayeux in France is one of the largest pieces of needlework in the world. This is the Bayeux Tapestry which is 231 feet long and shows scenes of life in 1066, including the Battle of Hastings, when Duke William of Normandy invaded England and beat the English King Harold.



The Sahara desert stretches along the coast of North Africa and hundreds of miles to the south. It is a huge wasteland, where very little grows and few people live. But once upon a time, this part of Africa was used for farming and many people lived there. But now the top soil has blown away, leaving only dust and sand.